

# **GET Ready for Math and Science Conditional Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions**

## **General Information**

### ***Why is the GET Ready for Math and Science Scholarship called a “conditional” scholarship?***

The qualified recipient, upon accepting the scholarship, agrees to:

- Earn a bachelor’s degree in a qualified math or science program at an eligible Washington college or university, and
- Work full-time in a qualified math or science occupation in Washington State for at least three years after college graduation.

If these conditions are not met, the recipient will have to repay the funds.

### ***How much is the scholarship?***

The amount of the scholarship will vary each year. For students who will be attending a public or private four-year institution, the scholarship will not exceed the annual cost of resident undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees at the University of Washington. The scholarship amount for the 2009-10 school year is \$7,512.

The scholarship is adjusted to the annual cost of resident and mandatory fees at the regional universities and the community and technical colleges for students attending these schools. The scholarship amounts for the 2009-10 school year are \$5,424 & \$2,928 respectively.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

### ***How do I know if I’m a Washington State resident for tuition and fee purposes?***

The term “resident student” means any student who:

- Has spent at least 75% of their junior and senior years in high schools in this state,
- Is not financially independent,
- Has parents or legal guardians who have lived in Washington State for at least one year within the five-year period before the student graduates from high school, and
- Enrolls in college within one year of leaving high school, for as long as the student remains continuously enrolled for three quarters or two semesters in any calendar year.

For more information on residency, please see [RCW 28B.15.012](#).

***If I am a Washington State resident attending high school in a different state, can I still apply?***

No. You must meet the residency requirements for tuition and fees listed above and you must score a level 4 on the math and/or science portion of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) or achieve a score in the math section of the SAT or ACT that is above the ninety-five percentile.

***What happens if I retake the math and/or science WASL and get a 4?***

You can use the higher score as long as you have been officially notified of your higher score by the time you apply for the scholarship.

***What income do I use to determine if I meet the income limits?***

Use the adjusted gross income on your parents' federal tax form plus all untaxed income. The adjusted gross income can be found on the following lines of the IRS tax forms:

- 1040—line 37
- 1040A—line 21
- 1040EZ—line 4.

Untaxed income is all income received and not reported on a tax return. Examples of untaxed income include:

- Welfare benefits
- Social Security benefits received that are not taxed
- Child support received for all children
- Tax exempt interest income
- Untaxed portions of IRA distributions
- Veteran's benefits
- Workman's Compensation

At the time of application and for the two years before applying, your total family income must be at or below 125% of the state median family income (MFI) listed in the chart below. If you are selected for a scholarship, your parents' income must be verified before the decision becomes final.

### ***What are the income levels based on family size?***

The following chart shows the current income levels at 125% of the state MFI for the 2008 tax year. By April 1, 2010 when selections are made, these amounts may increase slightly.

<b>MAXIMUM 2008 FAMILY INCOME</b> <b>For Students who will Graduate from High School in 2010</b>  <b>125% Median Family Income</b>	
<b>Family Size</b>	<b>Total Income May Not Exceed*</b>
1	\$50,490
2	\$66,025
3	\$81,560
4	\$97,095
5	\$112,630
6	\$128,165
7	\$131,078
Over 7	*Add \$2,913 for each additional family member

### ***How do I determine my family size?***

The family size is the number of persons who are living in the home of the student applicant on a regular basis at the time of application. The family members include the applicant; the parent(s); guardians(s); stepparent(s); and all siblings currently enrolled in school or as undergraduate college students and supported by the family. (Siblings age 17 or older who live at home but are not enrolled in school/college will not be considered.) Other people may qualify if they live in the household and are supported more than half-time by the parents.

### ***Can I still qualify if my family income exceeds the limit?***

No. The law specifically states that only those whose family incomes do not exceed 125% of the MFI are eligible to apply.

***How long do I have after high school graduation to enroll in college?***

If selected for the scholarship, you must enroll in college within one year of graduation from high school. For those graduating from high school in 2010, most will begin college in the fall of 2010, with the latest possible date being fall of 2011.

***How many math or science classes do I have to take every term?***

While earning your bachelor's degree in a qualified program or major, you must take an "average" of one math or science class per term. For example, you would be expected to have taken at least 3 math or science classes at a quarter school (or semester equivalent) by the end of each school year.

***If I am selected for the scholarship, is it automatically renewed?***

Yes, the scholarship is automatically renewed if you:

- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress as defined by the institution you are attending.
- Are on track to take an "average" of one math or science class per term.
- Enter a qualified program or major no later than the end of the first term in which you have junior level standing.
- Complete your bachelor's degree within 180 quarter credits (or the semester equivalent), or for up to five years, whichever comes first.

***Does the receipt of this scholarship prohibit me from receiving any other funding?***

Not necessarily. The financial aid administrator at your college or university will determine whether you qualify for additional financial aid and for how much. If you do qualify, the amount will be awarded in addition to your scholarship.

***What happens if I drop below full-time enrollment?***

You don't have to maintain full-time enrollment. However, you can only receive the scholarship for a maximum of 180 quarter credits (or semester equivalent) or for five years, whichever comes first. If you don't graduate with your bachelor's degree within five years of first enrolling in college, your account will go into repayment status.

***What happens if I want to go to Graduate School before I begin working?***

You must request a deferment from the Higher Education Coordinating Board to postpone your in-state work obligation if you want to enroll in a graduate degree program in a qualified mathematics or science field. You must maintain full-time enrollment in your qualified graduate degree program. A deferment can last no more than three years.

### ***How long after graduation do I have to begin working?***

After you finish your educational program, you are eligible for a six-month grace period in which to find qualified work. During this time, no interest accrues and no payments are required. Your grace period begins the first day of the month after you complete your program culminating in your bachelor's degree.

### ***Do I need to work full time in a qualified occupation for three consecutive years after graduating from College?***

Yes, unless you receive a deferment by the Higher Education Coordinating Board to obtain your graduate degree in an approved math or science program.

## **Eligible Colleges/Universities**

### ***What Washington colleges/universities are considered eligible?***

- All public universities, colleges, and community and technical colleges in Washington;
- Any private institution whose home campus is in Washington and is
  - Accredited by an approved accrediting association
  - Eligible to participate in the State Need Grant program
  - Offers an eligible major that leads to a bachelor's degree

## **Eligible Programs**

### ***What are the qualified math or science programs I have to take in school?***

A qualified math or science program is one that leads to a bachelor's degree upon completion of the program in such fields as computer science, engineering, life and physical sciences, and mathematics. Social science programs such as American studies, women's studies, human development, psychology and sociology do not qualify.

A list of example programs is posted to the Higher Education Coordinating Board's Website at [www.hecb.wa.gov/Paying/waaidprgm/GETREADYformathscience.asp](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/Paying/waaidprgm/GETREADYformathscience.asp).

## **Eligible Occupations**

### ***What are the qualified occupations I have to work in after graduation?***

Graduates of math and science programs take jobs in a wide array of related occupations in such areas as computer and information systems, engineering, animal and atmospheric and space scientists, chemists, and math and science teachers, just to name a few.

A list of example occupations is posted to the Higher Education Coordinating Board's Website at [www.hecb.wa.gov/Paying/waaidprgm/GETREADYformathscience.asp](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/Paying/waaidprgm/GETREADYformathscience.asp). You can visit the Bureau of Labor Statistics Web site at [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov) for other examples.

## **Repayment**

### ***When do I have to pay back the scholarship?***

You must repay the scholarship, with interest and applicable fees, if you fail to:

- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress as defined by the college or university you are attending;
- Stay on track to take an “average” of one science or math class per term;
- Graduate with a bachelor's degree from a qualified program or major within five years of first enrolling in college; and,
- Work in Washington in a mathematics or science occupation full time for at least three years following completion of a bachelor's degree.

### ***When do I have to begin making payments?***

If you do not fulfill all the requirements of the conditional scholarship, your account will be put into repayment status. Your first payment will be due following the end of the grace period, deferment period, or when you stop working in a qualified occupation. You will get credit for qualified time already worked.

### ***What is interest and applicable fee?***

The Higher Education Coordinating Board annually determines the interest rate and applicable fee rate on conditional scholarship accounts that are in monetary repayment status. The annual interest rate generally parallels the current rate for new loans in the primary federal student loan program for undergraduate students. Applicable fee refers to an equalization or “setup” fee that is charged at the time the participant enters monetary repayment. This fee is charged only once and does not exceed three percent of the current balance.